

**BOARD FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS**

2535 CAPITOL OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 300A, SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-2926

TELEPHONE: (916) 263-2113

FAX: (916) 263-2099

E-mail: [geology@dca.ca.gov](mailto:geology@dca.ca.gov)Website: [www.dca.ca.gov/geology](http://www.dca.ca.gov/geology)

**MINUTES OF THE  
EXAMINATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 16, 2001**

**2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300A  
Sacramento, CA 95833**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

John Williams, Ph.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM**

John Williams, Ph.D., Chair

Laura Cathcart

Scott Hector

Seena N. Hoose

Ernest Weber

Victor Cherven, Ph.D.

Absent:

Karen Melikian

Rebecca Sterbentz

Also in attendance:

Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer

Mary Lynn Ferreira, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Tracy Ferrel, Department of Consumer Affairs, Office of Examination Resources

Dr. Williams added selection of graders for the spring 2001 examinations to the agenda as a closed session item.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

*The Mission of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists is to Continuously Enhance the  
Quality, Value and Availability of Geological and Geophysical Services Offered to the People of California*

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2000**

**Mr. Weber moved to approve as corrected the minutes of the open session of the meeting of November 17, 2000.**

**Mr. Hector seconded.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Weber moved to approve as corrected the minutes of the closed session of the meeting of November 17, 2000.**

**Mr. Hector seconded.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**5. REPORT ON DECEMBER 1, 2000, AND JANUARY 26, 2001, BOARD MEETINGS**

Dr. Williams reported on the December 1, 2000, and January 26, 2001, Board meetings, highlighting items of particular interest to the Committee. The Board adopted the Committee's recommendation to not endorse giving the National Association of State Boards of Geology's (ASBOG) Fundamentals of Geology Examination as a college exit examination. The Board discussed the revised Act that will be amended into SB 136 (Figueroa). The Board's Budget Analyst presented a fiscal analysis that projects the Board's budget will show a deficit in Fiscal Year 2002-03. The Board discussed actions to reduce costs. The Board also discussed on-demand testing of the California-Specific Examination. Tracy Ferrel, Ph.D., Department of Consumer Affairs, Office of Examination Resources (OER), reported on the status of Board projects being performed by OER.

**6. REPORT ON CERTIFIED ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST AND REGISTERED GEOLOGIST OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSES BEING PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF EXAMINATION RESOURCES**

Dr. Ferrel reported that OER completed the occupational analyses for the Registered Geologist and Certified Engineering Geologist and released final validation reports. The Registered Geologist occupational analysis identified what tasks and knowledges are important for Registered Geologists in California as well as which areas are more important with respect to California geology. It

can be used to compare the ASBOG task analysis and work that is done to validate its examination as well as the California-Specific examination.

The Committee received a draft "Candidate Handbook for Certified Hydrogeologists" prepared by OER. Dr. Ferrel reported that this draft would be the model for the Certified Engineering Geologists and Registered Geologists California-Specific examinations. Dr. Ferrel requested clarification on some information contained in the draft before proceeding further. Dr. Williams will work with Dr. Ferrel to clarify the information. He requested the Committee members to review the draft and advise him of any comments or suggestions.

## **7. REPORT ON CALIFORNIA-SPECIFIC AND CERTIFIED ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST ITEM-WRITING WORKSHOPS**

Mr. Sweeney reported that OER conducted the Certified Engineering Geologist examination item-writing workshop on January 18 and 19, 2001. OER will conduct the Registered Geologist California-Specific examination item-writing workshop on February 20 and 21, 2001.

The Committee reviewed the information that is provided to workshop participants. Dr. Ferrel explained the importance of OER taking sufficient time at the beginning of the workshops to provide orientation for subject matter experts. Ms. Hoose recommended that the Examination Security Agreement for Subject Matter Experts and Personal Data forms be revised to be Board specific.

## **8. REPORT ON SPRING 2001 EXAMINATIONS**

The Committee reviewed attendance statistics for the spring 2001 examinations. Mr. Sweeney pointed out that eleven individuals are scheduled to take the Registered Geophysicist examination which is a significant increase.

Dr. Williams reported that Mr. Sweeney, Ms. Ferreira and he performed the final review of the spring 2001 Registered Geologist California-Specific, Registered Geophysicist, Certified Engineering Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist examinations before the meeting.

Mr. Sweeney reported that staff ordered the ASBOG examinations on February 9, 2001, and received ASBOG's confirmation of the order.

## **9. REPORT ON STATUS OF AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 3005 (EXAMINATION FEES) AND 3031 (TIME LIMIT ON CREDIT FOR PASSING INDIVIDUAL PORTIONS OF REGISTERED GEOLOGIST EXAMINATION)**

Mr. Sweeney reported that staff will submit to the Office of Administrative Law on February 20, 2001, a Notice of Public Hearing to amend section 3005 to reduce

the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination fee from \$150 to \$125. The hearing will be held on April 20, 2001.

Mr. Sweeney also reported that the Board continued to its April 20, 2001, meeting discussion of amendments to section 3031 to establish a time limit on granting credit for passing any of the required examinations to become licensed as a Registered Geologist. Mr. Sweeney will provide the Board with an analysis of the matter.

Dr. Williams reminded the Committee that it previously recommended to the Board that it amend section 3031 to establish a three-year time limit and that the Board decided to proceed with a five-year limit to coincide with the occupational analysis cycle. The Committee concurred that it still recommends to the Board that it establish a time limit unless the analysis provided by Mr. Sweeney prompts reconsideration of the recommendation.

Dr. Williams advised that he would be unable to attend the April 20, 2001, Board meeting and requested another member to represent him. Mr. Weber offered to attend.

#### **10. REPORT ON STATUS OF ON-DEMAND TESTING**

Dr. Williams reported that Mr. Sweeney is working with OER to complete the contract with Experior to implement on-demand testing of the Registered Geologist California-Specific examination.

Dr. Williams informed the members that the Committee must address two issues regarding on demand testing: (1) whether or not the Board will continue to administer the Registered Geologist California-Specific examination when it administers the ASGOB examinations once on-demand testing is implemented and (2) the frequency that an unsuccessful applicant is allowed to repeat on-demand testing. The Committee discussed these issues with valuable input by Dr. Ferrel.

**Mr. Weber moved to recommend to the Board that on-demand testing for the Registered Geologist California-Specific examination be offered as a replacement for administration on site with the ASBOG examination.**

**Mr. Hector seconded.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Hector moved to recommend to the Board that an applicant who fails the Registered Geologist California-Specific examination cannot retake it within six months.**

**Mr. Weber seconded.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting to closed session to consider examination matters as authorized by Section 11126(c) of the Government Code.

The open meeting resumed.

**16. REPORT ON RESULTS OF CLOSED SESSION**

Dr. Williams announced that during closed session the Committee selected graders for the spring 2001 examinations, performed the second review of the fall 2001 examinations, reviewed proposed and revised Registered Geologist California-Specific examination questions and reviewed proposed Certified Engineering Geologist multiple-choice questions.

**17. ESTABLISH AGENDA FOR NEXT EXAMINATION COMMITTEE MEETING AND HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

At the May 18, 2001, meeting, the Committee will perform the third review of the multiple choice questions and first review of the problems for the fall 2001 examinations, continue to review proposed and revised Registered Geologist California-Specific examinations questions and continue to review proposed Certified Engineering Geologist multiple-choice questions.

Mr. Weber and Dr. Williams will categorize the banks as assigned. The Committee will review the remaining Registered Geologist California-Specific and Certified Engineering Geologist questions. The Committee also will review the draft "Candidate Handbook for Certified Hydrogeologists" and inform Dr. Williams of comments and suggestions by February 28, 2001.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.

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**JOHN WILLIAMS, Ph.D., Chair**

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**PAUL SWEENEY, Executive Officer**

**Date Approved: May 18, 2001**